

lands with one or more limitations that would make development costly and hazardous. It will also include lands containing irreplaceable, limited, or significant natural, recreational, or scenic resources not otherwise classified.

The rural classed lands occupy the major portion, 145,000 acres or 84 percent, of Vance County's total area. This category does of course exclude large water bodies such as Kerr Reservoir and the federally owned conservation lands surrounding the reservoir. Three primary uses within the rural classification account for 94 percent of the total rural area and are: forest lands which occupy approximately 85,500 acres, agriculture which occupies 50,000 acres and mining and mineral extraction which occupy about 420 acres. The remaining acreage is occupied by residential, commercial, industrial, and public and semi-public land uses. The rural classed lands adjacent to the developed and transition lands will be reduced in acreage in the future to accommodate the county's future land development needs. The total rural classed lands will therefore continue to be reduced in size as development continues in Vance County.

Conservation

This class provides for effective long-term management of certain large tracts of land, consistent with their significant, limited or irreplaceable natural, recreational, productive or scenic resources with the intent that they will not be identified as transition lands in the immediate future.